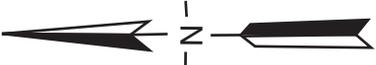
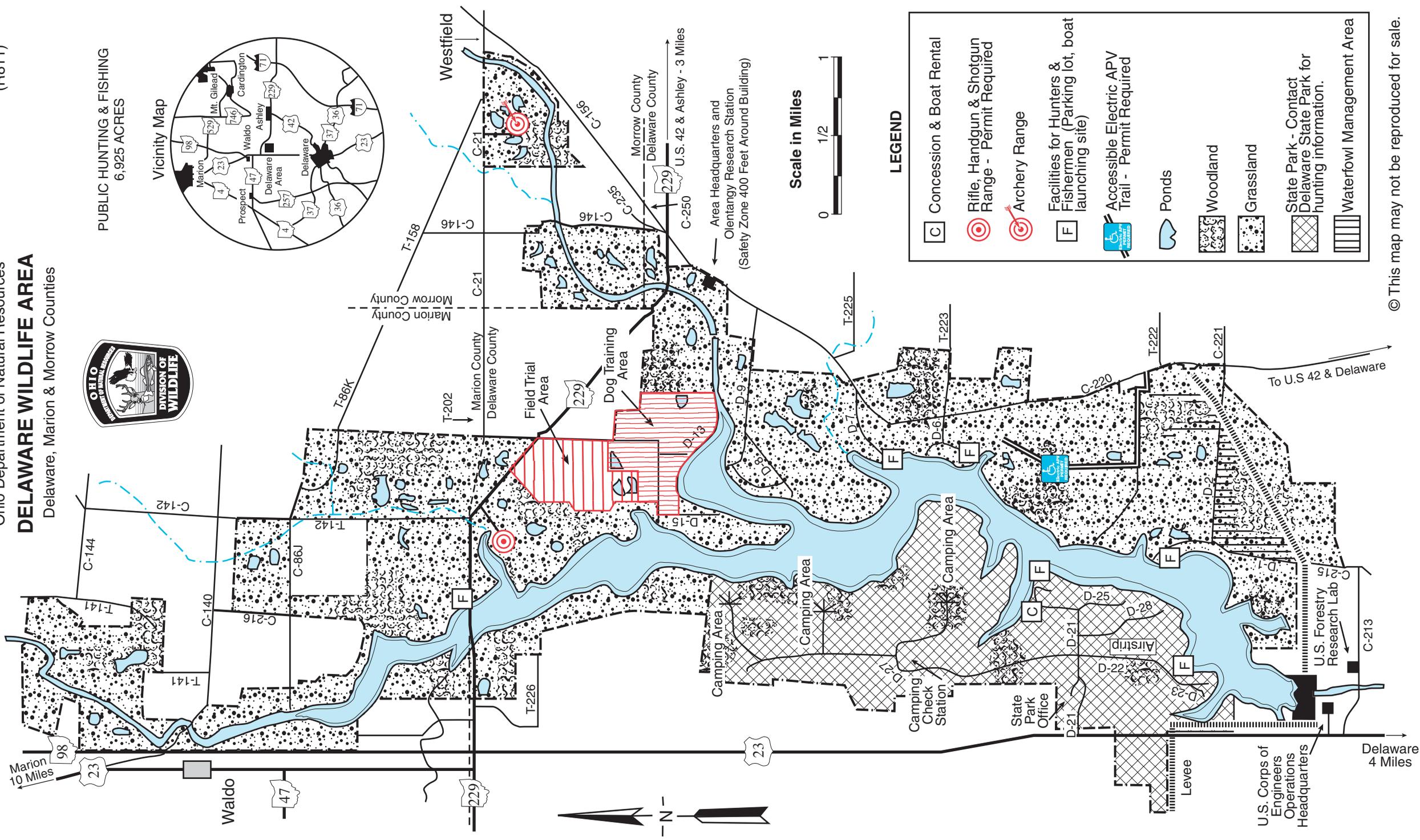
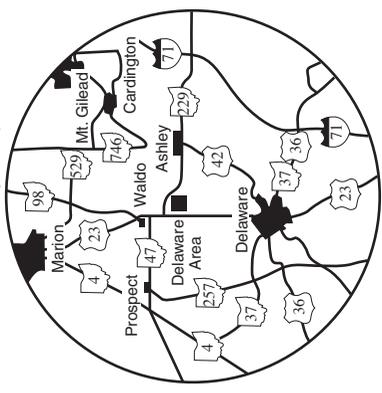




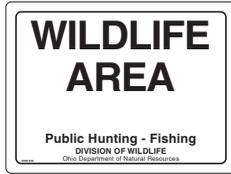
PUBLIC HUNTING & FISHING
6,925 ACRES

Vicinity Map



LEGEND

- Concession & Boat Rental
- Rifle, Handgun & Shotgun Range - Permit Required
- Archery Range
- Facilities for Hunters & Fishermen (Parking lot, boat launching site)
- Accessible Electric APV Trail - Permit Required
- Ponds
- Woodland
- Grassland
- State Park - Contact Delaware State Park for hunting information.
- Waterfowl Management Area



DELAWARE WILDLIFE AREA

Delaware, Marion, and Morrow Counties

DISTANCE FROM MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS

32 miles from Columbus

110 miles from Dayton

67 miles from Findlay

50 miles from Mansfield

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The 4,766-acre wildlife area is situated in central Ohio eight miles north of Delaware, 10 miles south of Marion, and between U.S. Routes 42 and 23. The wildlife area is adjacent to the Delaware Reservoir and Delaware State Park and can be reached from the east and west by State Route 229 and from the south and north by U.S. Route 23 and County Road 220.

The topography of the area ranges from flat to slightly rolling. The soils are generally well drained and of medium productivity. Approximately 350 acres are under cultivation in row and small grain crops annually. Approximately 40 percent of the wildlife area is in old field habitat consisting of mixed grasses, briars and small shrubs. Over 10 percent of the area has been planted to prairie grasses, timothy and clover to provide grassland wildlife habitat.

Nearly 50 percent of the wildlife area consists of second growth hardwoods and brush in advanced stages of succession. The timber stands consist of cottonwood, ash, elm, beech, maple, hickory, oak, and black walnut.

HISTORY AND PURPOSE

Delaware Reservoir was constructed from 1947 to 1950 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for flood control. Most of the 8,301 acres are licensed to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for fish, wildlife, and general recreation purposes. Delaware State Park, on the southwest side of the reservoir, provides camping, picnicking, and boat launching facilities for the hunter and angler. The remaining 6,000 acres, including the 1,330-acre lake, are managed for fish and wildlife and are available for hunting and fishing.

The wildlife management plan for the area provides for a diversity of habitats for upland wildlife. Management techniques include sharecropping, planting of permanent nesting cover, manipulating timber stands, and periodic burning to control succession. Wetland wildlife habitat has been improved by the construction of 54 ponds and the flooding of 260 acres of seasonal wetlands.

The Olentangy Wildlife Research Station, which serves as the headquarters for statewide upland wildlife research, is located here. Many field research projects have been carried out on this area since 1951.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

Cottontail rabbit, ring-necked pheasant, mourning dove, squirrels, woodchuck, raccoon, muskrat, mink, and opossum are the principal upland game and fur species. Resident populations of Canada geese, wood ducks, and mallards occur on the area. During the spring and fall migrations, these and other waterfowl species can be found in large numbers on the reservoir, ponds, and seasonally flooded marsh. Delaware Wildlife Area is also home to white-tailed deer and a growing population of wild turkeys.

A great variety of both nesting and migrant birds utilize the area. Of particular interest is the spring migration of waterfowl and songbirds and the fall migration of hawks. Red-tailed hawks, American kestrels, and Northern harriers (marsh hawks) are common summer sights over the open fields and woodlots. Large numbers of turkey vultures are also present during summer. Among the rare and unusual birds which have been observed are the Northern goshawk, king rail, snowy owl, long-eared owl, great egret, cattle egret, and sandhill crane. In 1994, wild turkeys were relocated from eastern Ohio to the Delaware Wildlife Area. Bald eagles and osprey nest at and/or near the area. Bird observation is a popular activity at Delaware.

Populations of black bass, bluegill, crappie, white bass, saugeye, and catfish occur in the reservoir.

HUNTING, TRAPPING, AND FISHING

The Delaware Wildlife Area is popular for rabbit, mourning dove, pheasant, deer and turkey hunting. Pheasants are released each year to increase harvest opportunity for this popular game bird. At the extreme southern end of the wildlife area, a 159-acre marsh and 100-acres of flooded timber provides excellent waterfowl hunting. Jump shooting for ducks on the numerous ponds is often productive. Trapping for muskrat, raccoon, and mink is equally rewarding and night hunting is popular.

Bass, crappies, bluegill, channel catfish, and saugeye make up the bulk of the fishery. Fishing below the dam during cold weather for saugeye and fishing the Olentangy and Whetstone rivers during the spring migration of white bass should prove rewarding. Throughout the warmer months, catfish, saugeye and black crappie fishing in the reservoir is very good.

PUBLIC USE FACILITIES

Parking lots are situated throughout the area. Several boat launching areas are available for anglers and hunters. A rifle and handgun shooting range is available to shooters who purchase a shooting range permit. Contact the Division of Wildlife for details on permit prices, locations to purchase permits and dates and hours the range is open.

Shotgun shooters can use the hand-trap range free of charge. The shotgun range operates under the same days and hours as the rifle-handgun range.

An archery range consisting of 11 targets and a broadhead shooting pit is located on the northeast portion of the wildlife area.

A dog training area is available for year-round use.

DUCK BLINDS

Permission to erect a permanent duck blind on the reservoir must be secured from the park manager at the Delaware State Park headquarters. Contact the Delaware State Park for more information.

HANDICAP ACCESS

The following facilities are available to users with disabilities: rifle, handgun, and shotgun shooting ranges with accessible restrooms, archery range, and an Electric APV Trail (permit required).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further information may be obtained from the Area Manager, Delaware Wildlife Area, 8589 Horseshoe Road, Ashley, Ohio 43003; telephone (740) 747-2919; or from the Wildlife District One Office, 1500 Dublin Road, Columbus, Ohio 43215; telephone (614) 644-3925.

TURN IN A POACHER

Ohio's TIP, "Turn In a Poacher," program is helping to curtail poaching throughout the state. TIP is designed to involve the public in reporting wildlife violations. Citizens who observe wildlife violations should call the TIP toll-free hotline, 1-800-POACHER.